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### New London School Readiness Council Meeting

October 19, 2022

Zoom

12:00 -1:30 pm

#### Notes

Attendance: Laurelle Texidor, Tina Salcedo, Debbi Poirier, Marissa Owsianik, Jeff Nicols, Robin Harris, Tiffany Johnson, Jenna Eldrege, Monica Franzone, Reona Dyess, Adrenna Palolillo, Kelly Davis, Sue Radway, Linda Hunter Williams, Francesa Souza, Barbara Timken, Roberta Travers,

Agenda Item	Comments/desired outcomes
<b>Opening</b>	<p>Tina Salcedo, co-chair, welcomed the council to the October meeting. Tina shared that Angela Rasmussen, co-chair, will not be joining the meeting today.</p> <p>Tina reviewed the September minutes and asked for meeting minute approval (Monica approved) and a second on the minutes (Jeff seconded) for approval.</p>
<b>RFP &amp; Goals Review:</b>	<p>The council discussed how the council and programs are meeting their goals and sharing any challenges.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The programs shared that hiring has been a struggle. It was suggested that programs could offer different options for employment like part-time, not everyday, college part-time opportunities.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The use of interns within a program</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Reaching out to Maureen Hogan to help staff get certified</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Could an article about the staffing concern be put in the New London Day to get the attention of the New London public?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> It was shared that from the community colleges only 19 ECE graduates walked in 2022</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Using the CTAEYC job board to share open positions</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The Drop In Program shared that they are having issues with fingerprinting for potential staff, volunteers, and interns.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Programs shared that this has also been a problem with them as well.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> New volunteers are having a problem because the BCIS is a very difficult system to navigate</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Laurelle shared that she would send an email to see if the superintendent could assist in the fingerprinting process               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> it was discussed that for early childhood, the process and requirements are different then they are for public schools</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>




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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Adrenna P. from LEARN is going to see if this is something that can be offered through LEARN, however it was also discussed that 211 will come to your site to do fingerprinting (within the OEC BCIS system).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The council also discussed that the BCIS system for background checks and fingerprinting must be logged into by the staff member themselves. While this has been challenging in assisting staff to navigate the portal, it does allow admin to review the BCIS information for their staff and it is color coded – Yellow highlighted for those who will be due soon, and Red highlight for those who have expired information in the system.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Roberta T. (OIC) will follow up with her director to see if their site can be a fingerprinting site (BCIS compliant).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> While fingerprints can be taken anywhere (police departments, etc.) when 211 completes the fingerprint and background checks the information is much more quickly input into the BCIS system that OEC uses. 211 is the OEC preferred fingerprint and background check provider for child care.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Discussion on the updated fee scale       <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sue (Riverfront Child Care) shared that the new fee scale has families that had been paying a nominal amount are now paying zero; however the families that were paying a higher fee are now paying even more.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Additionally the fee scale was designed to have families pay no more than 7% of their income, however, when families have multiple children, the formula does not work.</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> This is a concern because New London has options outside of School Readiness that offer transportation or free care.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Additionally, providers are concerned about the fees that will be unable to be collected because either families will no longer be paying or will be unable to pay at the higher price.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Kelly will bring these concerns to the priority liaison group.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Elections</b></p>	<p>Kelly had Tina go back to the waiting room for the council to vote on co-chairs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> There was a question if the voting could be done online. It was discussed that this had previously been approved during the pandemic.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Additionally, there was some concern over who could vote. Kelly asked that anyone that would like to vote to vote by putting their vote for co-chairs in the chat. Kelly will collect and print the chat and ensure that those who vote make up quorum. Kelly will also remove the votes that are unable to count.</li> </ul>



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	<p><i>The only votes that cannot be counted are those of a guest. Tina and Angela would also be unable to vote.</i></p>  <p><b><i>Please help me in congratulating Tina &amp; Angela on being elected to co-chair our School Readiness Council!!</i></b></p>
<p><b>Curriculum Committee Update</b></p>	<p>Currently there are three people on the curriculum committee. The committee will be having quarterly meetings. There will be discussion and review of best practices as well as the DOTS, CCEI, ELDS training. For every formal committee meeting, minutes will be shared. The next time to expect minutes will be after November 30th.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 10/26 - Curriculum Committee Meeting</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 11/30 - Full Group Meeting</li> </ul>
<p><b>Collaborative Grant Update</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Tina shared that we wanted to review the collaborative grant information and ensure that we are keeping up with what we had said we were going to do with the grant money.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Tina shared that the grant has been used on billboards, yard signage, brochures &amp; handouts (translated in multiple languages), parent ambassadors, &amp; kindergarten transition materials and meetings between pre-k teachers and teachers.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> This money must be spent by December</li> </ul>
<p><b>Parent Ambassador Update</b></p>	<p><i>Nicole was unable to join the meeting, however, Kelly shared the information that Nicole sent to be shared with the council. -</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> parent Cabinet and parent ambassadors have started meeting.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> will begin planning events to hear from parents and families in the community and will reach out to program directors to help in some of these events.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> I recently received my laptop and email (the setup process has been a headache- the computer they first gave was broken so then I had to wait longer but we are finally there!) So I will be reaching out to directors soon.</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Parent cabinet members are beginning to look at the barriers to centers being able to maintain their numbers and have a full staff. No answers yet but this is being prioritized, just a little FYI.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Program and General Update</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Tina shared that there will be an event at BP on Nov. 2nd from 5 - 6:30PM on Community Resources/Helpers. The firetruck &amp; police car will be present!! A flier will be sent when it is created.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Reona shared that "Lights on New London" will be honored by the city of New London for their after school/school age program</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Reona shared that last year the Drop In program stepped back from preschool children, however, there has been a request for services.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Roberta shared that 28 ECE professionals came on Saturday for the CDA program</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Tina shared additional events like Tommy's Toys and the diaper bank have available resources. Also, there is the Toy Lending Library and it includes many toys, STEAM kits, and the toys are all for children 3 years - 7 years old. The Leading Library is through New London Public Library.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Kelly will be sending out the LEARN link for a flier for Medication Administration &amp; Epi-Pen Administration.</li> </ul>